

# THE CIRCUIT RIDER



Middleburg United Methodist Church  
Editor: Nichole Batten

September/October 2020  
Issue 5

As I type these words I am filled with hope. Hope hasn't disappointed. We have patiently waited, prayed, and continued on as best we could while hoping all would return to "normal" soon. I can't speak to "normal" but I can say that our circumstances are looking better.

Amid the chaos we have reason to celebrate. We are preparing for the second soft re-launch of our in-person worship service. We've missed each other! But please hear me when I say, "We haven't missed ministry!" Has ministry looked different? Yes. But the Church hasn't stopped being the Church; we are essential in more ways than we know. God knows us that God might save us. God saved us through Christ that we might know God. Because I am known and saved by God I can enjoy a relationship with God both personally (daily, wherever) and within the community of faith (wherever). The relationship remains wherever and with whomever.

By God's grace, here are just a few reasons we have to celebrate ministry and mission in spite of COVID-19: Lily Bea Lippincott born April 14<sup>th</sup> to John and Erica Lippincott. Isak Terrell was born May 1<sup>st</sup> to Nic and Karissa Terrell. Melanie Fitzpatrick (formal reception soon) and Michael Close joined our Church and Michael was also baptized. Ronnie and Rhonda Witcher, and Bryan and April Morris were joined in Holy matrimony. We celebrate the lives of: Betty Pinkney, Jim Kwaak, Martha Spivey, Bill Taylor, (Kathy Saunders, and Wanda Spooner, services forthcoming). I've had counseling sessions with folks. We keep an active Prayer ministry, and we've kept up with our people and their needs as best we could. Ministry from our Helping hands fund has continued. Food Bridge hasn't missed a beat and is still working hard (but could use more helpers). Tattered Remnants (music ministry) has led weekly worship outside. A few small groups have continued to meet safely. Not to mention all of the updates and improvements around campus thanks to the Trustees.

Appreciating the fact that the Church is the agent for extending the kingdom until Christ comes again we would do well to look to John Wesley who had his own view of the church. "Wesley wrote: In the mean time, let all those who are real members of the church, see that they walk holy and unblamable in all things. 'Ye are the light of the world!' ye are 'a city set upon a hill' and 'cannot be hid.' O 'let your light shine before men!' Show them your faith by your works. Let them see, by the whole tenor of your conversation, that your hope is laid up above!' Let all your words and actions evidence the spirit whereby you are animated! Above all things let your love abound.'"

Wherever and with whomever, may we align with the heart of Charles Wesley in his hymn 'A Charge to Keep I Have,' "To serve the present age my calling to fulfill: O may it all my powers engage to do my Master's will!"

Be encouraged, onward we go Church, get on board and hold on.

In Christ,

*Pastor Devin Sanderson*

# United Methodist Men

## Middleburg United Methodist Men Are on the Move - Again!

We are pleased to announce that the 33 The Series: Authentic Manhood classes will resume the week of September 15, 2020.

Especially during the ongoing pandemic, we have come to realize now more than ever, that our families, churches, and communities need authentic men who will reject passivity, take responsibility, lead courageously, and invest eternally. If you're looking for a way to jump-start your authenticity as a man and become the best version of yourself, you don't want to miss this opportunity! Please reach out to the facilitators listed for each course for questions or to sign up.



Here is the class schedule (for men 18 years and older):

- A Man and His Design: Mondays, 6 – 7:30 PM, Budington Bldg.  
(Craig Van Gundy, 904-838-9414)
- A Man and His Story: Mondays, 6 – 7:30 PM, Family Life Center  
(Ray Ashcraft, 904-860-6162)
- A Man and His Traps: Tuesdays, 6 – 7:30 PM, Family Life Center  
(Phil Jacobs, 904-309-4318)
- A Man and His Work: Thursdays, 6 – 7:30 PM, Budington Bldg.  
(James Cooper, 904-310-2808)
- A Man and His Marriage: Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8:30 PM, Family Life Center  
(Roger Murphy, 904-248-9053)
- A Man and His Fatherhood: Tuesdays, 9 – 10:30 AM, Portable  
(Tommy Wilder, 904-874-1756)

Please note that in order to protect everyone concerned, masks are required and social distancing will be observed at all events conducted on the church campus. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



# United Methodist Women

The first sentence in my last newsletter article read "It seems these past few months I have had to cancel, reschedule, and now cancel again." Here we go again! We are now having to reschedule the 7th Annual Yard sale from September 19th to November 14th from 8-3 in the Family Life Center. We will be setting up on Friday after the school releases classes. This is going to require all the help we can get, even if you are not a UMW member, please come out and help us if you can. We can also use extra help on the day of the sale. The sale items have to be transferred from the sheds over to the FLC and setup for opening. All proceeds go right back into our church missions.

The school supplies have been given out to the Food Bridge Children to help them get started this school year. We make up a starter package for all grades from K through 12th grade. This year, due to the circumstances, we did not receive the donations we usually do and had to dip into our treasury more than we usually have to. Many thanks to those who were able to give generously. I cannot thank Luann Eddington enough for her hard work in purchasing, sorting, and organizing this mission for these children. I never realized what goes into this mission until I helped stuff the bags with supplies. **We were able to give 266 children a starter packet.**

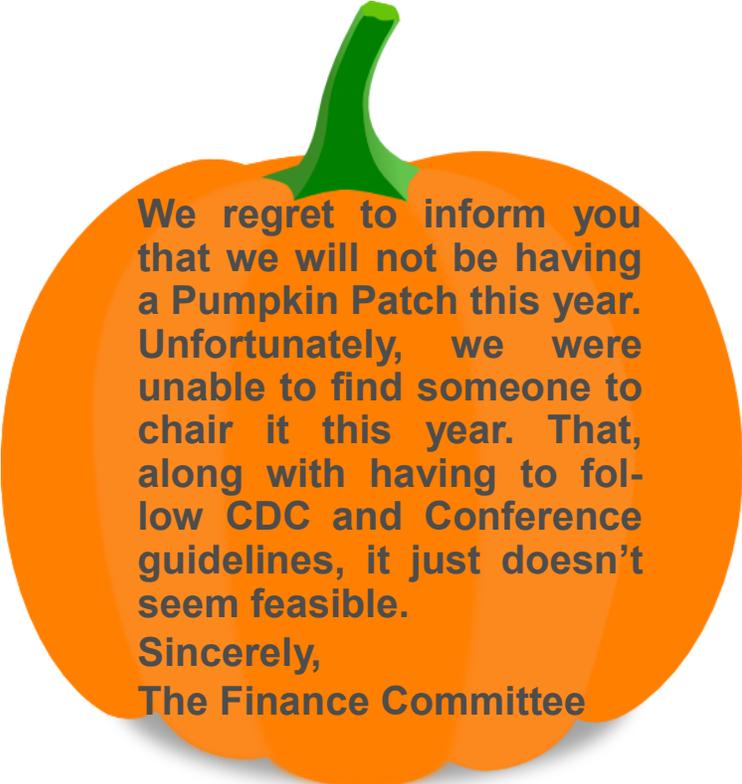
In situations as we all have been going through, we must keep the faith.

With practice, faith is as simple as taking a breath. Today, trust God for one small thing--it will be the beginning of your walk with faith.

The next UMW meeting will be September 10th at 6:30pm in the Portable.

**Many thanks for your continued support of the Middleburg United Methodist Women.**

In Christ,  
Judy McNee, President



**We regret to inform you that we will not be having a Pumpkin Patch this year. Unfortunately, we were unable to find someone to chair it this year. That, along with having to follow CDC and Conference guidelines, it just doesn't seem feasible.**

**Sincerely,  
The Finance Committee**



## The Staleness of Sad

Gayward and I attended a graveside funeral the other day of a man we had known for over 40 years. We weren't close to *him* but were to other members of his family; some I had taught in school. It was a quiet and dignified ceremony for a quiet and dignified man. I appreciated the fact that despite the fear and nervousness caused by *the pandemic*, attendees (& there were *plenty*) social distanced respectfully, but were as drawn and hungry to see one another as we probably all are. I know we are tired of only seeing eyeballs filled with anxiousness above a face covering, shaded by hair or ball caps. Tired of the feeling in our stomachs that we've unwittingly touched something infected, fearful each time we sneeze or someone else coughs. We have long forgotten our health standards prior to March 2020, when we did wash our hands, covered our sneezes and coughs, and went about our daily routines. Who knew everything would turn upside down and *normal* would fly out the window never to return again? I mentioned in another article before how the Israelites in Egypt must have felt during plague time; now I think of Noah when he finally was allowed to disembark. Nothing is *normal* anymore.

People have asked: Is this virus from the devil or did God allow this to happen? You may have your own answer to those questions; mine is: I don't know. The Bible has ample proof of both sides. And what does it matter? The virus is here and doing what super-viruses do. What matters is what we are doing about it. Yes, I know – *precautions*. Does anyone *not* know about masks and gloves, sanitizing, distancing, and that protocol? That's the obvious, "outward fixing." But how about the inward fix? Allowing the Hollywood rocket scientists, the obtrusive media, fear-mongering and political finger pointing to affect our thoughts, actions, and emotions has already increased the sales of anxiety pharmaceuticals two-hundredfold. And by worrying, can one of us add a single hour to our life? (Matt 6:27)

Some of us have gone through several stages of denial – not afraid, not believing in it, not changing habits or schedules. Some have gone to a dark place of fear where their home is the only refuge of safety and everyone is suspect. Some of us are impatiently waiting it out, as if there will be a *cut-off* date like there was a *cut-on* date in March. And some of us are just floundering in a Jello-state of surreal-ness, not knowing what to do or who to believe.

God's watching all this. Not sure what He's thinking or what His agenda is, but we can pretty well state with surety: He's on the throne and is in control. He may be sad that we're so confused but He covers us with grace nonetheless. He knows our fear, feels our pains, and catches our tears. He is the sovereign God over this entire planet and His plan for our future is already in place.

Is that a simplistic statement? Maybe so, but we cannot be cowards if we believe it. So, sweet folks, continue to seize your tomorrow with vigor, choose carefully and focus on what you can control – your conversation with an omnipotent God, His beloved Son, and the very present Holy Spirit. Worship with certainty, love Him with abandoned boundaries, sing and pray loudly, softly, privately, or publicly with joy and conviction. Jesus didn't go to the cross to make your life a bed of roses but He did it because He knows what's in store for us at the end of the rainbow.

Remember that! And don't be sad anymore. Pursue your investment in eternity and celebrate. We can create a newness in worship like never before.

I just got happy again writing this. I'm fixing to go celebrate with a cookie.

Love you guys, and can't wait to see your eyeballs in church.

\*\*Susan

## Help Needed at Food Bridge

Our Food Bridge workers have been busily working helping the needy in our community during this Covid crises, but we are needing some servant volunteers to help us in this much needed mission of our church. Last Thursday alone, we gave out about 8 tons of food that was donated to our mission from our local supermarkets. That means last week we fed 204 families that included 475 people of which 144 are seniors, 114 kids, 43 vets, and who 102 are disabled.

In order to continue this much needed mission, we need your help. We need help not only with boxed or canned goods, but with volunteer servants who are willing to come in to the Budington building to help as we receive food daily, store it, and get it ready to hand out to the needy each Thursday as they line up in their cars on Main St. The following are servant openings:

TITLE:	REQUIREMENTS	DAYS OF WEEK NEEDED	TIME OF DAY
◆ Delivery Truck driver	Current license	Mon, Tues, & Fri	6:30 AM – 10:30 AM, except Wed
◆ Truck assistant, loader	Strong Muscles	Mon, Tues, & Fri	6:30 AM – 10:30 AM, except Wed
◆ Dock Unloader	Strong Muscles	Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri	7:30 AM – 10:30 AM
◆ Sorter, stacker		Mon through Friday	8:30 AM – 10:30 AM
◆ Bagger		Thursdays	8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
◆ Greeter /Record Keeper	Sweet personality	Thursdays	7:00 AM – 11:30 AM
◆ Musicians	Play instruments	Thursdays	7:00 AM – 10:30 AM

If you are interested in helping our mission, please contact Nichole or Wendy at the church office (904) 282-5589.

No pay on site but rewards and retirement plan is Out of this World!



### Finances of the Church

Greetings brothers and sisters. Well, we are not yet back to normal at the church but at least we started back to worship Sunday, August 23. It was great to see a good crowd, wearing masks and keeping social distance rules. Perhaps we are seeing a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel.

Although we did not pass the offering plate as we would in normal times, it was there in the middle of the room for people to make use of as they felt the call.

The last few months have been very challenging for us in many ways but especially financially. We have cut our expenses to the bone but we still have expenses. There are still utilities to pay, the mortgage, salaries, etc. Using July as an example, we kept our expenses to just under 84% of budget. But we still spent more in July than what was given by almost \$5,000. What has kept us afloat this year was the Paycheck Protection Loan we applied for and received of \$41,507. Without it, we would have had to make cuts that would have impacted our ability to function as a church. This money also had restrictions on what it could be spent on (salaries, utilities plus select other categories) and has ALL been used as of July 31.

I know I've thrown a lot of numbers at you but the bottom line is we need the financial support of all the congregation at this time. I ask that each of you prayerfully consider our situation. If you have kept up your normal giving, praise God!. If you haven't, please consider returning to your normal giving and even "catching up" if you've fallen behind. I realize for some, their own financial situation has deteriorated. I ask that the congregation pray for those having financial difficulties. Together, with lots of prayer, we will all get through this and be stronger for it.

Your brother in Christ,

Jack Eddington, Interim Finance Chair

### *Prayer Roll*

Scott Ashcraft, Rheta Barber, Dennis Barker, Diane Betz, Joyce Brantley, Crystal Brooks, Courtney Brunelle, Jane Bullen, Meagan Campbell, James Cooper, Lib Creech, Polly Criss, Helen Crotts, David, Church, Danika Davis, Joni DeBusk, Gary Driver, Jeff Driver, Blake Eckert, Rick Fife, Krickett Foschaar, Tony Fox, Carol & Richard Fouraker, Eileen Free, Rev. Ann Godbold, Teresa Gross, Annette Hagler, LA & Maxine Hardee, Evelyn Harlow, Tom Howard, Darlene King, Yvonne Lempke, Ernie Lord, Jim Lundy, Bob & Pat Lucas, Bob & Rose Lynch, BeBe Mathis, Debbie McDonald, Gordon McDonald, Linda Monroe, Ellen Moore, Curt Morrison, Ray Overly, Sam Payne, Doug Pope, Henry Rauch, Bill Roberts, Jody Robertson, Tina Rodgers, Kate Sasso, Robin Scherzer, George Scoble, Tracy Scoville, Dan Smith, Nora Smith, Joan Spencer, Allan Spencer, Nicholas Spencer, Jennie Warner, Gracie Washington, Richard Wehrman, Millie Wilkes, Ann Woodard, Trinity Woodley, Sylvia Wooters, Robin Zagora & Family

#### **Servicemen & Women:**

Drew Baker, John Behrens, John Brantley, SGT Philip Buchanan, Jerry Dingman, Benjamin Harlowe, Ben Humphrey, Joseph Jankord, Howard Kalick, Caleb Kovach, Lola Lewis, Jarrod Linion, Matt Lippencott, Pete Matisoo, Kayla McClendon, Michael McLeod, Dustin Morrison, Brad Muller, Paul Noland, Vince Preston, Matt Ritter, Sarah Robinson, Alexander Rumrill, Josh Sansoucy, Breena Schmoll, Bret Shockley, Tim Sutton, Chris Teagle, Paul C. Trotman, Buzzy Updegraff, Jason & Jackie Warren, Daniel West, and Matthew West

**Amen**



## September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	<b>Office Closed</b>  Labor Day	Bible Study	Bible Study	Food Bridge Cub Scouts <b>UMW - 6:30</b>		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Prayer Meeting Bible Study	Bible Study <b>Finance Meeting</b>	Bible Study <b>Purple Gang - O'Charley's-FI 11:30</b>	Food Bridge Cub Scouts		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Prayer Meeting Bible Study	Bible Study	Bible Study	Food Bridge Cub Scouts <b>Trustees 6 pm</b>		
27	28	29	30			
	Prayer Meeting Bible Study	Bible Study				

## Weekly Events:

### **BIBLE STUDIES/ CLASSES**

**Monday:** 9 am Prayer Mtg - Sanctuary  
**UMM:** Various meeting throughout the week.

**N.A. Meetings Tues.** - 7:30 pm - Mongiovi House  
**PURPLE GANG:** Every 3<sup>RD</sup> Wednesday - Lunch-11:30  
**Wednesday Nights** – Youth: 6:00 pm - Zoom  
**Thursdays:** Cub Scouts - FLC- 6-8 pm  
**Praise Band Practice:** 5 - 6:30 pm

### **FOOD BRIDGE MINISTRY**

Thursday Drive Thru Distribution -  
7:30-11:30am

### **BOUTIQUE**

Open upon request  
Saturdays: 9-11am



# October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
	Prayer Meeting 9 am Bible Study 6 pm	Bible Study Crafters	Youth & Children Bible Study	Food Bridge Cub Scouts Zumba		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Prayer Meeting 9 am Bible Study 6 pm	Bible Study Crafters <b>Finance 7 pm</b>	Youth & Children Bible Study	Food Bridge Cub Scouts <b>UMW Election 6:30</b>		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Prayer Meeting Bible Study	Bible Study	Youth & Children Bible Study	Food Bridge Cub Scouts <b>Trustees 6 pm</b>		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Prayer Meeting Bible Study	Bible Study	Youth & Children Bible Study	Cub Scouts Food Bridge		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<b>UMW Toy Collection Starts</b>	Prayer Meeting Bible Study	Bible Study				

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### FOOD BRIDGE MINISTRY

Thursday Drive Thru Distribution:  
 7:30-11:30 am  
**BOUTIQUE** - Open upon request



## Birthdays

1 Lilly Morris	17 Bethany Hill
2 Kylee Smith	Taylor Long
3 Bruce Berry	Tori Summers
Beth Cherry	Brenda Weeks
George Scoble	18 Vicki Dolder
4 Bonnie Bailey	Judy McNee
Alice Brasher	21 Bob Lucas
Jim Lyda	Bernie Van Matre
5 Karen Kwaak	22 Janet Bruce
Donna Smith	Glenda Harmon
6 Dennis Barker	Roger Moore
DeAnn Huff	Chris Trueblood
7 Regina Clayton	23 Laney Carter
Rachael Hiter	Curt Morrison
8 Ken Rissmiller	Mary Stallings Scoble)
10 Lenore Goodnight	25 Ray Birkholz
Sam Richards	26 Diane Kroll
15 Jack Eddington	27 Teresa Gross
Craig VanGundy	Crystal Warren
16 Tony Fox	29 Steve Crist
	Stephanie Merring
	30 Steven Spooner

## Anniversaries

4 Wendy & Duane Jackson
Holly & Bill Updergraff
Gerry & Buck Witt
8 Kim & Steve Crist
9 Sue & Woody Woodley
11 Ann & Dennis Barker
29 Maxine & L.A. Hardee



## Birthdays

3 Ruth Ann Dickerson	14 Cody Rundio
Mabel Lesley	Stacy Spooner
Savannah Milam	15 Roy Wilkie
Denise Rogers	17 Jean Richards
4 Colleen Marsteller	20 James Geiger
Michael Reach	Ruth Paine
6 Jacob Dickerson	Kathy Robertson
John Grubb	Karen Rucker
7 Abbey Sanderson	Caitlyn Simpson
Nic Terrell	21 Dianne Ashcraft
8 Emmy Hall	23 Marlene Stevens
9 Gloria Allen	25 Bill Carter
Carolyn Conklin	Cynthia Runnels
Lee Goodnight	Bill Updegraff
Etta Simmons	26 Tina Baker
11 Rick Fife	29 Rachel Carroll
Jeanie Simpson	Linda Deal
12 Melissa Gnsaulus	Rev. Bryan Simpson
(Fullerton)	30 Diana Burns,
Zach Updegraff	Wendy Brewer
13 Richard Gross	Kim Hiter
	31 Helen Hess (Hope)
	Wendy Jackson

## Anniversaries

10 Karen & Noel Rucker
15 Sue & Ray Vickerman
19 Jean & Tommy Williams
20 Marty & Paul Ackley
21 Vicki & Arthur Dolder
26 Martha & Gary Woodbury
30 Alice & David Brasher
31 Jim and Deb Sacco

**Middleburg United Methodist Church**

3925 Main Street  
Middleburg, FL 32068

**Rev. Brian Sanderson, Sr. Pastor**

(850) 673-7309

**Church Office:**

(904) 282-5589

**E-mail**

middleburgunited@bellsouth.net

**Church Office Closed  
September 7, 2020**



**Middleburg United Methodist Church**

3925 Main Street  
Middleburg, FL 32068

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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To: 779-77



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Go in Peace and Love

